

Who Wants to Work in Child Care?

a poem dedicated the North Carolina's early care and education workforce
by Donna Durham Danzy ©1999

Who wants to work in child care, year round, day after day?
Who wants to nurture our future for less than a living wage?

Who wants to kiss the baby who is colicky, tired, and unkept?
Who wants to be tickled by toddlers even after you're all out of pep?

Who wants to go back to school and open their mind to the child of today?
Who wants to work in a field where so few seem to stay?

Who wants to serve up meals that nourish bodies and minds?
Who wants to rock and rock tears, into sleepy smiles?

Who wants to get all messy, making playdough and paintings for fun?
Who wants to splash in cool water beneath the afternoon sun?

Who wants to be a peacemaker in a community of people age four?
Who wants to partner with families, and advocate to give children *more*?

Who wants to have a career where smart starts last a long, long while?
Who wants to help author, the first chapters of life for a child?

WE, the child care professionals, take on these meaningful tasks!
WE put the needs of children first, and some of our own needs last.

WE want to give hope to tomorrow, so love is the bottom line.
WE want to work in child care, so our littlest people might shine.